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# Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

News Release

May 2, 2016

## Tourism to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument creates \$18,196,700 in Economic Benefits

Crow Agency, Montana – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 317,783 visitors to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in 2015 spent \$18,196,700 in communities near the park. That spending supported 310 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$23,594,200.

“Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Denice Swanke. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine C. Thomas and NPS economist Lynne Koontz. Nationwide, the report shows \$16.9 billion of direct spending by park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 295,339 jobs nationally; 252,000 of those jobs are in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$32 billion.

According to the 2015 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31 percent) followed by food and beverages (20 percent), gas and oil (12 percent), admissions and fees (10 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (10 percent).

Report authors this year produced an interactive tool. Users can explore current year visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage: [go.nps.gov/vse](http://go.nps.gov/vse).

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Montana and how the National Park Service works with Montana communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to [www.nps.gov/MONTANA](http://www.nps.gov/MONTANA).

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